

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1-5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (withdrawn)

7. (currently amended) A [nickel-metal hydride] multi-cell battery, comprising:

a battery case; and

a plurality of [nickel-metal hydride] electrochemical cells housed in said battery case, each of said cells including:

at least one [nickel hydroxide] positive electrode, at least one [hydrogen storage alloy] negative electrode and an [alkaline] electrolyte; and

an enclosure housing said at least one positive electrode, said at least one negative electrode and said electrolyte, said enclosure including a gas permeable membrane allowing passage of cell gases into and out of said cell but preventing passage of said electrolyte out of said cell, said membrane comprising at least one corrugated layer of a membrane material.

8. (original) The battery of claim 7, wherein said gas permeable membrane comprises a polymeric material.

9. (original) The battery of claim 7, wherein said membrane comprises a hydrophobic material.

10. (canceled)

11. (original) The battery of claim 7, wherein said membrane protrudes outwardly from said cell.

12. Canceled.

13. (original) The battery of claim 7, wherein said plurality of cells are electrically coupled in series.

14. (previously presented) The battery of claim 7, wherein said at least one negative electrode comprises a hydrogen storage alloy.

15. (previously presented) The battery of claim 7, wherein said at least one positive electrode comprises a nickel hydroxide material.

16. (previously presented) The battery of claim 7, wherein said electrolyte comprises an alkaline material.

17. (original) The battery of claim 7, wherein said battery case is a common pressure vessel for each of said electrochemical cells.

18. (original) The battery of claim 7, wherein battery operates at a peak pressure of at least 10 psi.

19. (original) The battery of claim 7, wherein said enclosure is formed from an electrically nonconductive material.

20. (original) The battery of claim 7, wherein said enclosure comprises a polymeric material.

Claim 21. (withdrawn)

22. (currently amended) A [nickel-metal hydride] multi-cell battery, comprising:

- a battery case; and

- a plurality of [nickel-metal hydride electrochemical cells] housed in said battery case, each of said cells including:

- at least one [nickel hydroxide] positive electrode, at least one [hydrogen storage alloy] negative electrode and an [alkaline] electrolyte; and

- an enclosure housing said at least one positive electrode, said at least one negative electrode and said electrolyte, said enclosure having an opening allowing passage of cell gases into and out of said cell, said opening being a circuitous pathway formed by said hydrophobic material.

23. (original) The battery of claim 22, wherein said hydrophobic material is disposed along the periphery of said opening.

24. (currently amended) The battery of claim 22, wherein said hydrophobic material [at least] partially seals said opening.

25. (canceled)

26. (original) The battery of claim 22, wherein said hydrophobic material is gas permeable.

27. (original) The battery of claim 22, wherein said hydrophobic material comprises at least one hydrophobic layer.

28. (original) The battery of claim 22, wherein said plurality of cells are electrically coupled in series.

29. (previously presented) The battery of claim 22, wherein said at least one negative electrode comprises a hydrogen storage alloy.

30. (previously presented) The battery of claim 22, wherein said at least one positive electrode comprises a nickel hydroxide material.

31. (previously presented) The battery of claim 22, wherein said electrolyte comprises an alkaline material.

32. (original) The battery of claim 22, wherein said battery case is a common pressure vessel for each of said electrochemical cells.

33. (original) The battery of claim 22, wherein said battery operates at a peak pressure of at least 10 psi.

34. (original) The battery of claim 22, wherein said enclosure is formed from an electrically nonconductive material.

35. (original) The battery of claim 22, wherein said enclosure comprises a polymeric material.

Claims 36-53 (withdrawn)

Claim 54-69 (canceled)